

## America: Imagine the World without Her By Lorraine Viade, Psy.D.



This documentary by outspoken political commentator and author Dinesh D'Souza is a film that is bound to bring out some strong emotions in anyone who sees it. *America* presents D'Souza's historical assessment and overview of how America came into being, what it has become and what it might evolve into in the future. D'Souza also looks at the different political ideologies of U.S. citizens and proposes that some of these ideologies have been formed through manipulation of facts in order to create dissent.

Part history, part opinion and part conjecture, *America* challenges both sides of the political arena to take a closer look at some things that might have gone unnoticed or unpublicized. The historical interactions between the founders of America and the Native Americans who were already here and African Americans who were brought here and enslaved are examined. D'Souza challenges many long held beliefs.

I have seen a great deal of change in America over the years. I have seen much progression forward, and sadly some backwards. My family believed in assimilation, education and the American Dream. *America* was a surprising, disturbing and in some moments, an enlightening film to watch. If nothing else, it was interesting and thought provoking. D'Souza also challenges many of the ideas contained in the Howard Zinn book, *A People's History of the United States*.

What I came away with is a clear sense that there are so many American Histories. These histories become our personal truths and shape our individual beliefs. Depending on where you were born, how you were raised, and what part of the country you live in, history is subject not only to individual interpretation, but to revision, based on differing or dissenting accounts and facts regarding the same events.

Every one of us must eventually do our own research and gather the information we need to decide where we stand in society, what we stand for and who we stand behind. Regardless of who we support, what political party we claim or how our ancestors came to America, we are all subject to the same economy, the same limited resources, and not always the same opportunities for everyone. How do we preserve the United States as a united nation? The founding fathers were challenged with the enormous responsibility to develop a framework for our new country. The ideals embedded in our constitution are as self-evident today as they were then.

America was founded as a place where freedom could be realized and where people could pursue happiness in a spirit of equality. But from the founding fathers until today are we as a nation still embracing that great idea? Is the American Dream attainable? Is it sustainable? If we lose the foundation of our beliefs as a nation then what would take its place? That is the most frightening thing

to consider. For the millions of us who live here and who love what America stands for, what would we do without her? You decide for yourself.

